

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SCUL, CASC, ASEC, UR, US (BARSUKOV, YURIY

SUBJECT: TV PROGRAM CALLS SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS KGB AGENTS

1. JACK ANDERSON ON ABC-TV "GOOD MORNING AMERICA" JUNE 16  
COMMENTED ON TOTH CASE AND REPORTED THAT TWO SOVIET  
CORRESPONDENTS IN WASHINGTON ARE "VETERAN KGB AGENTS."

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2. TRANSCRIPT FOLLOWS:

"WELL, IN THE SOVIET UNION, AMERICAN NEWSMEN ARE WATCHED  
WHEREVER THEY GO. TV CORRESPONDENTS MUST TAKE ALONG AN  
OFFICIAL CENSOR ON FILMING TRIPS. IN THIS COUNTRY SOVIET  
NEWSMEN ARE FREE TO TRAVEL VIRTUALLY WHERE THEY WISH. THEY  
HAVE THE SAME ACCESS AS OTHER NEWSMEN TO GOVERNMENT PREMISES.  
THEY CAN INTERVIEW ANYONE WHO WILL TALK TO THEM. THEIR  
FILMS ARE SHIPPED UNCENSORED TO MOSCOW.

"WELL, THIS WEEK, ROBERT TOTH THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FOR THE LOS ANGELES TIMES WAS DETAINED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES. I KNOW BOB TOTH. HE'S AN EXPERIENCED REPORTER. HE USED TO BE A WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT. WELL, HE WAS HAULED IN FOR QUESTIONING BY THE KGB FOR PICKING UP A STUDY OF PARAPSYCHOLOGY. THAT'S A POP SCIENCE. IT'S NO MORE A

MILITARY SECRET THAN IS THE FORMULA FOR PEANUT BUTTER.

"I HAVE CHECKED, MEANWHILE, ON SOVIET NEWSMEN IN WASHINGTON. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES HAVE IDENTIFIED TWO OF THE MOST PROMINENT RUSSIAN REPORTERS IN WASHINGTON AS VETERAN KGB AGENTS. ONE IS YURI BARSUKOV. HE'S LISTED AS A CORRESPONDENT FOR THE SOVIET NEWSPAPER IZVESTIA. BUT HIS REAL JOB IS GATHERING INTELLIGENCE FOR THE KGB. NOW, MY STAFF HAS WATCHED BARSUKOV IN ACTION. HE'S A HUMAN VACUUM CLEANER AS HE MOVES AROUND WASHINGTON. HE PICKS UP EVERY LOOSE DOCUMENT HE CAN LAY HIS HANDS ON. THESE INCLUDE DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY DOCUMENTS THAT ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS. THE OTHER KGB AGENT IS VISSARION SISNEV. HE POSES AS A CORRESPONDENT FOR THE SOVIET LABOR PAPER TRUD. BUT, ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, HE TRANSMITS TO MOSCOW INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE OF VALUE TO THE KGB.

"ANOTHER KGB AGENT, STANISLAV KONDRASHOV, RECENTLY RETURNED TO THE SOVIET UNION. HE USED TO WORK WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BARSUKOV IN THE WASHINGTON OFFICES OF IZVESTIA. THOUGH THE HEAVILY-SPECTACLED KONDRASHOV EVEN BEHAVED LIKE A KGB AGENT--HE MOVED PONDEROUSLY FROM OFFICE TO OFFICE WITH GRIM DETERMINATION.

"NOW, THESE SOVIET SPIES ARE ACCREDITED TO THE WASHINGTON PRESS GALLERIES. THE ACCREDITATION GIVES THEM SPECIAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION, INCLUDING OFF-THE-RECORD BRIEFINGS. THEY FLAGRANTLY ABUSE THE PRESS PRIVILEGES THAT HAVE BEEN GRANTED TO THEM. IN CONTRAST, BOB TOTH IS A LEGITIMATE NEWSMAN ON THE PAYROLL OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, NOT THE CIA.

3. DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWS:

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM JACK ANDERSON'S REPORT THIS MORNING THAT TWO SOVIET JOURNALISTS IN WASHINGTON ARE KGB AGENTS?

A: IT IS OUR POLICY NOT TO COMMENT ON SUCH ALLEGATIONS, NEITHER TO CONFIRM NOR DENY THEM. WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE MR. ANDERSON OBTAINED HIS INFORMATION. MOREOVER, LAW

ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE  
ACTIVITIES LIES WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Subject:** TV PROGRAM CALLS SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS KGB AGENTS  
**TAGS:** SCUL, CASC, ASEC, SOPN, UR, US, (BARSUKOV, YURIY), (ANDERSON, JACK), (TOTH, ROBERT)  
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